

Cemetery Trustee Meeting

July 8, 2021

The Cemetery Trustee meeting opened at 2:10 pm in the Clerk's Office at City Hall.

Present: Kristia Davis, Edward Bryant, Albert Morrisette, and Shelli Fortin (bookkeeper)

Absent: None

Public: Theodore Bosen

1. Bosen Monument

Theodore Bosen was in attendance to discuss his proposed monument at the Hillside Cemetery. Edward Bryant shared concerns about the size of the monument, as it would be 42" deep at the base, where most are just 14-16". This would cover a substantial portion of the center graves on the lot. Although monuments such as these are seen in the Old City Cemetery, lots in that cemetery were designed in a different manner than the Hillside Cemetery. Mr. Bosen suggested that he may not include the bases, and will contact the monument dealer for further planning.

2. Cremains Benches

The question of cremains benches being allowed in the cemeteries was discussed by the Trustees. Several issues were brought up; including whether this interment would count as one of the three cremains allowed even though it is not a burial, who would do the interment of the ashes since it is currently done by the public works personnel, how the ashes would be encased in the bench, and the size of the base of the bench since conformity with other stones is a concern. Shelli Fortin will do some research with other Towns and Cities to see how this is handled by other cemeteries.

3. Review of Rules Concerning Bushes at City Cemeteries

The Trustees were advised of a recent incident at the New City Cemetery, in which the bushes that are maintained on the Gillingham plot by Linda Gillingham were mowed down by Public Works summer personnel. Shelli Fortin and Mike Ross met her at the cemetery to observe the damage. Mrs. Gillingham advised she knew they were not allowed per the Rules, but that they have been there since 1999. She requested that if she could not replant, then others that are currently in the cemetery also be removed. After discussion, the Trustees agreed that bushes planted on either side of the monument add to the beauty of the cemetery, and that if maintained they should be allowed.

The Trustees unanimously agreed to approve a change to Article XIII Decoration of Plots by removing rose bushes and shrubs from the list of prohibited items, and also removing section F, prohibiting window boxes or pots in front of monuments.

The Trustees still have the authority to remove any shrubs or plants that are unsightly, damaged, or in the way of burials, per section 1.

The Trustees agreed to reimburse Linda Gillingham up to \$50 for the replacement of the damaged bushes. Shelli Fortin will advise her to bring in a receipt when she replaces them.

4. Complaints ref: Monuments

Shelli Fortin advised that she notified Don Piper about the Leclerc monument in the Hillside Cemetery being over the height requirement for a single lot. Mr. Piper was also notified about a foot marker which was not set flush with the ground for Alex Tupick at the New City Cemetery.

5. Agreement with Parish for Perpetual Care

Shelli Fortin advised that the yearly \$468 expense was reimbursed to the City, as expenses are subtracted from the interest earned each year before calculating the new balances. So, the total amount currently in the account, both principal and interest accounts, would be transferred to the Catholic Cemetery. The total amount is \$43,198.67. Shelli Fortin shared a draft letter to be sent to Father Kyle noting our intention to proceed with the transfer to the Diocese of Manchester. The Trustees requested that the City Attorney be asked to review before sending.

6. Report of Trust and Capital Reserve Funds

Albert Morrisette distributed the annual Report of Trust and Capital Reserve Funds. Expenses this year totaled \$3,771.31. New income totaled \$6,950.00 from sales of lots in the Beth Israel Cemetery, Russian Cemetery, and Hillside Cemetery. The current balance of all accounts is \$377,004.82.

7. Question from Don Piper reference Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Questions from Mr. Piper were addressed. The Trustees advised they are not going to keep a register of monument dealers, as work is laid out with BPW beforehand, and we will know who is providing the service. BPW does not need to be present while the work is done. As far as work in the cemetery on weekends and holidays, the Trustees agreed that paragraph 7 did not apply to lettering work and understood that some work does need to be completed outside of normal business hours.

8. Other

Ed Bryant advised that mowing at the cemeteries is not being done well. He noted that the Hillside Cemetery was recently mowed, but trimming was not done around the monuments, and there are only two. He noted that grass had to be cut with a trimmer before a funeral earlier this year because it was so high. Shelli Fortin will notify Mark Lapointe from BPW. The Trustees asked if Custom Services was still available to provide mowing services, as they did a better job with supervision than the summer help has done the last couple of years. It was also suggested that maybe someone older looking for a summer position might be better suited. It was also mentioned that the sexton should be a full-time position.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled as needed.

There being no further business before the Cemetery Trustees at this time, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin, Bookkeeper